

Earth First! Action Update

No.30 AUGUST 96

30p

'Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.'

REPAIR THE STREETS - THE TAKING OF THE M41

'We are not going to demand anything. We are not going to ask for anything. We are going to take. We are going to occupy.'

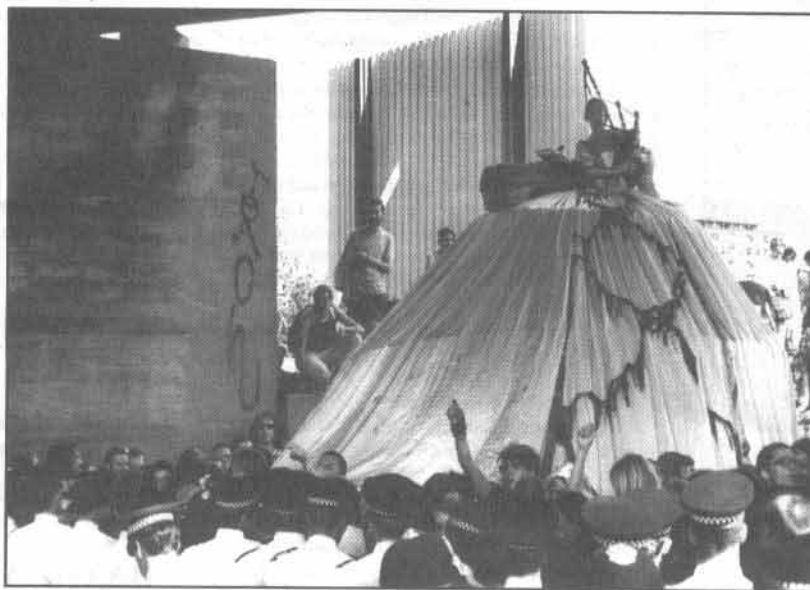
Billed as a "Festival Of Resistance" and "the only 'party' worth having", London Reclaim The Streets third street party lived up to its promises. At its height upwards of eight thousand people occupied the M41 near Shepherd's Bush transforming the country's smallest motorway into the "biggest, freest, most spectacular street party yet!"

Thousands of partygoers had gathered at Broadgate near Liverpool Street only minutes past the 12 noon meeting time on Saturday 13th July. Leaflets were distributed asking people to "follow those with pink armbands" and to "expect the unexpected". At 12.30pm word spread that it was time to go and a three hundred strong Critical Mass set off, while the main group, aided by undercover organisers, moved underground to the westbound Central Line. Fourteen stops and six packed tube trains later the crowd emerged at Shepherd's Bush, where the police, until this point content with surveillance, blocked off the entrance to the M41 roundabout. Some people, unsure if this was the actual site, began partying here.

At the opposite end of the motorway the blockade crew, aware that people had arrived, decided to go for it. Outmanoeuvring police spotters they made it onto the road. Two cars were theatrically crashed to block the road and three tripods were erected across the southbound carriageway. At the foot of the convoy two sound system vehicles drove on, chased by dozens of police on foot. In what was possibly the scariest moment of the day, the vehicles were surrounded on an empty motorway. The drivers were pulled out and arrested by smug police officers, certain that they had stopped the party.

But the police had under-estimated the creativity of the crowd. Hearing that the road had been taken people began finding alternative ways onto it. Like a river breaking through a dam, the trickle grew into a flood. One large group walked far around the police line, coming up from behind and simply running past it onto the street! Others found ways through back streets and climbed onto the road further up.

At the blockade, those not already arrested had clambered onto the sound system trucks and witnessed the amazing sight of thousands of people running up the motorway towards them. Police faces dropped quickly and as the crowd neared they began backing off. The arm-twisted, quick-cuffed arrestees, on a nod from a sergeant were swiftly de-arrested (de-arrest of the year perhaps?)



and the vehicles were soon swarmed with partygoers. The sides of the lorries were opened and the sound systems kicked off. The people roared. The party was on!

DIG FOR VICTORY!

Climbers hung enormous banners the breadth of the motorway. A huge sun, colourful murals; while others proclaimed 'Destroy Power!' 'Support the Tubeworker's' and 'The society that abolishes adventure, makes its own abolition the only adventure'

A struggle ensued when police tried to stop other decorations and equipment being brought in from a nearby estate. One van containing the p.a. rig for live bands was impounded, but once again, faced with an active crowd, the authority of the police dissolved. They retreated

and in came carpets, armchairs—a complete living room! A tonne of sand was laid on the tarmac and stalls set up on the hard shoulder. Three thirty foot 'pantomime dames' glided through the party throwing confetti. Food stalls gave away free stew and sandwiches; graffiti artists added colour to the tarmac; poets ranted from the railings; acoustic bands played and strolling players performed.

The tripod sitters, isolated by a police line from the party, negotiated their inclusion and joined the mass of people. The police retreated to the ends of the road settling for re-directing traffic and arguing amongst themselves.

Beneath the giant skirt of one panto dame de-constructionists set to work. Using a pneumatic drill in time to the techno music, the tarmac of the road was repetitively attacked, until large craters littered the fast lane (Enthusiasts were later seen comparing 'chunks' of motorway!). The lunar landscape was then 'naturalised' by the planting of sapling trees rescued from the path of the M11 link road.

As the sun set on an extraordinary day fires were lit on the road, litter was collected and the banners removed. The sound systems announced another free party elsewhere in London, then at 11pm the music went off, and the trucks drove off to the cheers of a grateful crowd.

For nearly ten hours the M41 vibrated, not to the repetitive roar of the car system, but to a human uprising; the living sound of a festival, and as one activist put it to a disgruntled copper, "Think yourself lucky, we could have gone anywhere: Buckingham Palace, Downing Street, thousands of people climbing up Parliament."

And, as another said, "Today we are only practising. Tomorrow... anything is possible!". Contact London Reclaim the Streets: 0171 281 4621.

On the morning of Friday 2nd August, the Reclaim the Streets office and one persons private home were raided by police, who seized computers as well as various personal effects. At the moment it seems as though at least one person is to be charged with conspiracy to cause criminal damage to the M41. Despite this Reclaim The Streets are still active and as we go to press there are actions planned in support of the London Underground tube strikers. Get in touch with RTS on 0171 281 4621 if you would like more details, know anybody with video footage of the Street Party or are able to donate a computer.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

After the success of the Direct Action Conference in Brighton last year there will be another one this year on 23rd November, again to take place in Brighton. It will include a wide variety of talks, workshops and discussions that will not just be the stereotypical 'alternative' or 'green' ones. Anyone wanting more details or with anything to offer in the way of help contact: 01273 685913.

A new campaign has started up called ReMeDial (Revolutionary Money Defacement League). Its stated aim is the overthrow of the techno-industrial capitalist system, but in the meantime the group intends to scrawl messages of resistance on all bank notes in circulation.

As mentioned in a recent Action Update there is to be a US Earth First! Roadshow coming over next summer to tour around talking about various subjects including forest issues, industrial culture, and wilderness defence. They want people who will help to organise venues for the roadshow to visit. Anybody who thinks that they will be able to do this get in touch with the Action Update so that a list can be collated of people who can help.

Nike has just had a television commercial made for hiking shoes that was filmed in Kenya with Samburu tribespeople. In the advert the camera closes in on one tribesman who speaks in his native language and as he speaks the slogan 'Just Do It' appears on screen. Except Lee Cornk, an anthropologist at the University of Cincinnati, says the tribesman is really saying, "I don't want these." Nike's Elizabeth Dolan says, "We thought nobody in America would know what he was saying."

On the 12th March 1996 Simon Sunderland was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment for graffiti on mostly derelict and now demolished sites in Sheffield. His plans to go to art college have been destroyed and his future employment prospects greatly diminished. Simon's art did nobody any harm and brightened up grim spots of the city, is that worth sending him to prison for? For more information about the campaign to free Simon contact: Free Simon Sunderland Campaign, 18 Wentworth Road, London SE5 8HW. Also please write to him in prison at: Simon Sunderland RR1591, HMP Everthorpe, E Wing, Brough, North Humberside, HU15 1RA.

The minutes of the workshop on 'The New Age and Conspiracy Theories' that took place at the Earth First! Gathering in Wales in June are available from: Open Eye, BM Open Eye, London, WC1N 3XX. Enclose an SAE and a donation to cover photocopying costs.

FASLANE PEACE CAMP LIVES!

Earlier this year the residents of Faslane Peace Camp decided to hold a meeting of all interested parties to decide the future of the camp. The meeting on May 25th was attended by about one hundred people and the outcome was that the camp should cease in its present form, with the twelve permanent caravans dismantled and a peace garden to be created. By the second week in July this plan was well underway with six of the caravans demolished.

On 23rd July the decision was revoked by four supporters of the camp, the reasons given for this change in plan were, the attendance of nearly one thousand people for the Trash Trident demonstration on 15th June and the infiltration of HMS Sceptre by two camp residents on 22nd July.

The action involved two women walking through the perimeter fence of the coastal base before swimming in wetsuits 300 yards across a spotlight stretch of water within the Clyde base and boarding the nuclear submarine. They spent at least ten minutes on board touring the top secret control room before being arrested on board. The later action received widespread media coverage and as a result the support for the camp has increased dramatically.

At present 6 caravans remain and numbers of residents have increased from four to eight, despite the fact that the threat of eviction by Argyll and Bute council remains. The camp will now be a Peace Garden with monthly gatherings and action, with a permanent camp for residents. The camp will continue to maintain its resistance to all forms of nuclear madness in this world, and as such, will be a source of inspiration to many. Long may it continue! Contact: 01436 820901.

DISARMING WOMEN

After 57 disarmaments, £4.5 million of damage and a collective total of 156 years spent in prison, the Ploughshares Movement finally clocked up its first acquittal.

Amid extraordinary scenes of jubilation, Lotta Kronlid, Andrea Needham, Joe Wilson and Angie Zelta were last week cleared of causing £1.5 million of damage to an Indonesian-bound Hawk fighter, on a Ploughshares action named 'Seeds of Hope'. Despite disallowing hearsay evidence, Judge "Wicked" Wickham recognised the womens' defence, and permitted a video containing shocking footage of the 1991 Santa Cruz massacre to be shown to the jury. Defence witnesses included Jose Ramos Horta, East Timor's exiled Foreign Minister, Carmel Budiardjo, who had spent three years in an Indonesian jail, and John Pilger, who had entered East Timor in 1993 to secretly film the documentary "Death of a Nation". After four hours of deliberation, the judge accepted a 10-2 majority on the three counts of criminal damage and four of conspiracy. "When the foreman stood up I was thinking: well, I've prepared myself for several years in jail and here it comes," recalls Andrea Needham, who, like Lotta and Angie, defended herself. "When he said 'not guilty' there was this huge gasp around the courtroom. We didn't dare breathe until he'd read out each of the seven verdicts, and then the whole courtroom erupted."

Outside the court, the women were instantly served with injunction notices, which were immediately torn up by supporters. "We were overwhelmed by the courage of the jury in accepting what had been said," says Joe Wilson. "That verdict was an indictment of British Government policy and British Aerospace's actions in selling weapons to Indonesia. It was a

day for justice, and a day for East Timor." Also undoubtedly a day that will have made the whole 'arms industry' very nervous. As one of the women said "Outside, people were saying that we couldn't go around smashing up other people's property. But people in prison don't have hang ups about that. They accepted that if planes are going to kill people, then you stop them."

The women now intend to bring out a private prosecution against BAe for contravening The Genocide Act.

To contact Seeds of Hope call 0171 923 9511. To get involved in upcoming actions against the arms trade contact CAAT on 0171 281 0297 or Stop the Hawks on 0161 834 0295.

A30 UPDATE

The contract has now been awarded for the A30 road near Exeter. The group that has won it is the CONNECT consortium, who consist of: W.S. Atkins (consulting engineers), Bank of America (Finance), BICC (Balfour Beatty) subsidiary BBTa, Philip Holzmann AG (owners of Tilbury Douglas), Halcrow Fox (traffic advisors) and Linklaters & Paines (legal advisors).

About forty people recently went to visit W.S. Atkins in their King's Wharf, Exeter quayside offices.

Work has not started yet but is expected to very soon. In readiness for the long eviction all three sites are being barricaded with treehouses, scaffolding towers, pill boxes, underground bunkers and tunnels and more lock-ons than you can shake a side-handled baton at.

As ever more people are needed to help with the preparations. They also really need someone with a vehicle to help move stuff around, scaffolding, nails, wheelbarrow, vegan food, enthusiasm, more garden gnomes (cos the Trolls have beheaded all ours), as well as the usual wish list of things. Much thanks to the dozen or so people from the Czech Republic who came over and helped out loads and really got stuck into it. Thanks also to Exeter FoE, it is just a shame we can't say the same about National Friends of the Earth. For more details contact A30 Action on: 01404 815729 or 0385 278156/7.

BATHEASTON BYPASS OPENING DISRUPTED

Around sixty people disrupted the opening of the Bathaston Bypass through Solsbury Hill on 11th July. Banners were hung from bridges along the route from 7am, including a twenty five foot banner reading 'DESTRUCTION'. The roads minister John Watts was due to open the road at 9.30am, but his executive coach was blocked as it travelled down the new dual carriageway (three arrests for aggravated trespass). He made his speech an hour late, and then cut the ribbon, accompanied by the usual shouting and heckling from the protesters who had been cordoned off by police horses. The road was blocked for nearly two hours until most people had been arrested for obstruction of the highway. There were about twenty three arrests altogether. The few that were remaining caused traffic jams by employing helpful pelican crossings, infuriating the police who couldn't find a reason to arrest them.

Since the opening there have been traffic jams on the old and new roads nearly every day (not caused by protests), and the villagers of Bathaston are complaining of speeding traffic.

There will be a Reclaim The Streets in Bath on Saturday 17th August. For more details contact Avon Gorge Earth First! on: 01225 448556 or 01225 314040.

How to Contact the Earth First! Action Update

By Post: Earth First! Action Update, PO Box 9656, London N4 4JY. By Phone: 0171 561 9146 By E-Mail: actionupdate@gn.apc.org. Please enclose a SAE for replies, and to subscribe to the free e-mail server - send us your details.

Earth First! Website address: <http://www.hrc.wmin.ac.uk/campaigns/earthfirst.html>

RECLAIM THE VALLEYS II

As Celtic Energy continues to destroy the South Wales Valleys, the direct action campaign to stop opencast quarrying goes on.

The present sites are being sustained throughout the summer and despite Celtic Energy's incompetent efforts the campaign continues to evolve. Whilst holding the sites is important it must be remembered that taking the fight directly to the enemy offers the most effective results. Celtic Energy are in trouble.

Helped by the success of the campaign, opencast mining is back on the public agenda in South Wales. Coupled with increasing public awareness of Wales' ecological crisis, their operations are meeting more resistance than ever before. The pressure being put on them is working and they may stop the Nant Helen quarry extension. To help this happen there will be an intensive three days of action starting on Wednesday 28th August. To increase its effectiveness it would be best if people arrived before the Wednesday start. Resources are scarce so it would be best if people brought what they could, especially vehicles, tents and communications equipment.

For more details contact: 01792 475 882 the week before the actions or the usual no 0385 711364.

WHATLEY TO EXPAND

Back in December '95 Whatley Quarry was the scene of one of the Earth First! movements biggest actions. One of the aims of that action was to highlight the owners AMEY Roadstone Corporation's plan to expand the quarry by a further eighty-five acres. Last month the Somerset County Council gave permission for that expansion. Local opposition to the expansion is considerable and direct action is now considered to be the only option left.

Trashing of mature trees and hedgerows could start at any time. Local campaign group Mendip Hills not Holes, are organised for building local support but need help from experienced activists for squatting, treehouses and offensive actions. Ring their information line: 01749 880144 if you are interested.

VAL D'ASPE

A Euroroute is being built through this ecologically sensitive area in southern France. The valley is home to the last nine Brown Bears in Europe, and a baby bear has been born recently as well. The campaign base 'La Goutte d'Eau' is threatened with eviction this summer and activists from all over the world are invited to come on holiday in the French Pyrenees. For more details contact: 01603 502796 (UK) or +31 20 665 0166 (Europe).

WANDSWORTH ECO-VILLAGE

On 2nd August Wandsworth Eco-Village entered the High Courts of (in)Justice. A small permaculture garden was installed just by the entrance steps by the posse of twenty-five who arrived wearing bands of leaves with their dresses! The 'Master' appeared to have made his mind up ahead of their arrival and the villagers arguments were ignored. Costs were awarded against them in an arbitrary fashion. An appeal is under consideration.

They returned home to Wandsworth only to

discover that five of the six trees along the roadside had been chopped down on behalf of the Highways Department for a road widening scheme. How convenient that they chose a morning when all but a couple of the residents from 'Pure Genius' were otherwise occupied defending their homes, in court. Fortunately the two who had stayed behind were able to climb the last tree and defend it. The tree is now being protected by a constant vigil.

The village has been alive and kicking for three months now and is still going from strength to strength. As well as the new houses and the now well established permaculture gardens, it is a much needed green space for the local community (both human and non-human). The villagers are putting a call out for positive people to join with them for gardening, building and non-violent actions.

Over the weekend of 7th/8th September there is to be a reunion for everyone who was around on the first days and anyone who has been their since. All welcome to help with preparations for Autumn and Winter. They are there to stay! For more details contact: 01865 722016.

NO M66

Actions against the construction of the M66 near Manchester continue, with a small group of people who regularly go digger diving and crane sitting.

The actions are beginning to aggravate AMEC/MacAlpine, who say they are seeking injunctions against some of the group doing them. The Highways Agency started a propaganda campaign on July 30th/31st at a local school, seeking to 'explain' to residents what the M66 construction meant to them. People arrived and picketed the session and at one point noisily occupied the 'exhibition' singing songs, chanting slogans and banging on tables.

Help is urgently required to battle this motorway. For more details phone: 0161 628 4727 or e-mail 106014.55@compuserve.com.

ANTI JSA ACTIONS

The Job Seekers Allowance, yet another attack on minorities is due to come in operation this October and will cut thousands of people off benefits and make signing on for those that still qualify far harder.

The Manchester Anti-Job Seekers Allowance Group have been holding regular pickets outside Cheetham Hill Job Centre, one of the pilot offices for the JSA. Pickets have been attended by between twenty and thirty people and in addition to this the office has been occupied on several occasions. As part of Groundswell's 'Three Strikes and You're Out' initiative, around fifteen Anti-JSA activists picketed the Regional Employment office in Salford Quays on 30th July. They took security by surprise and staged a demonstration in the reception area of the JSA Implementation Office. For more information write to Dept 99, 1 Newton St, Manchester M1 1HW.

For the address of your local anti-JSA group phone Brighton Claimants Action Group on: 01273 671213. There is also an anti-JSA march in Cardiff planned for Saturday 5th October, meeting at City Hall 12.30pm.

With the JSA coming in soon we thought people may be interested in this job that was recently advertised in The Glasgow Herald newspaper: A Business Development Manager for Reliance Security. Annual pay is £25,000 (not including perks) and you get a company car. Send all your applications to: Mr Peter Honnan (General Manager), Reliance Security Services Ltd. (Scotland), Rankine House, Port Dundas Business Park, 100 Borron Street, Glasgow, G4 9XG.

EVENTS

August

- 10 Prisoner Justice Day. March from Holloway Prison to Pentonville Prison, London. Meet 3pm outside Holloway Prison, Parkhurst Road, London N7. For more details contact: London Anarchist Black Cross, 121 Railton Road, London, SE24.
- 12 Actions against the start of the Grouse shooting season. Contact Hunts Saboteurs Association on: 01273 622827.
Action outside The Ritz Hotel, London, 11.30am, against Hotels and restaurants competing to serve up freshly killed grouse. For more details call: 01902 711935.
- 17 Birmingham Reclaim the Streets. Meet at noon at Cannon Hill Park, Edgbaston between the bandstand and the lake. Take the No. 1 Bus from Corporation Street in the city centre. Contact Birmingham RTS on: 0121 449 5452.
Bath Reclaim the Streets. Contact Avon Gorge Earth First! on: 01225 448556.
- 24 Brighton Reclaim The Streets. Meet 1pm Churchill Square, Brighton. For more details contact: 01273 685913.
Celebration of Anarchy Day in Glasgow with workshops etc. Contact: 0141 226 5066.
- 25-30 Newbury Flim Flam Festival - Week of events and actions. For more info call Third Battle on: 01635 45544.
- 28 Anti-Shell protest outside the Shell building at Waterloo, London from 1-3 pm. For more info call: 0181 533 4533.
- 28-31 Reclaim the Valleys II - The Sequel. Anti open-cast actions in Wales. For more info call: 01792 475 882 the week before the action.
- 31 Close Campfield Refugee Detention Centre. Meet 12 noon at the camp gates. Contact: 01865 724452.

September

- 3 Stop The Arms Fair! Action Against the Royal Navy and Army equipment exhibition in Aldershot, Hampshire. Meet 12 noon at The Municipal Gardens for an invasion of the event at 2pm. For more details contact Campaign Against the Arms Trade on: 0171 281 0297.
- 7-8 Wandsworth Eco-Village reunion. Call The Land is Ours on: 01865 722016.
- 14 Cambridge Reclaim The Streets. Meet 1pm at Cambridge train station.
- 28 Stop The Clampdown! Reclaim The Future! Massive demonstration/protest/party in central London. For more details contact Freedom Network on: 0171 582 3474 or the Advance Party on: 0181 450 6929.
- 29 McLibel Gathering: Mobilise Against Big Mac. A day to expose the oppression, exploitation and ecological damage done by McDonalds. 10.30am-8pm at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London. Free entrance. Contact: 0171 713 1269.

October

- 5 Cardiff Anti-JSA March. Meet 12.30 pm at City Hall, Cardiff.
- 12 Day of solidarity with McDonalds workers. Picket your local store. For leaflets and information contact: 0171 713 1269.
- 16 Annual Worldwide Day of Action against McDonalds. Contact: 0171 713 1269.
- 19 Anarchist Bookfair at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London. Stalls, talks, food, workshops. For more details contact: 0171 242 8032.
- 24 National Day of Mahogany Actions. Call: 01603 666879 for more information.

November

- 5 Stop The COPEX Arms Fair. Meet 9am Littleworth Common, Esher, Surrey. Contact: 0171 281 0297.
- 23 Direct Action Conference in Brighton. Talks, workshops, discussions, stalls, etc. At a location to be announced nearer the time. Followed the next day by a party to celebrate the 100th issue of the Schneus. Contact Justice? on: 01273 685913.
- 30 International No Shop Day. Do your bit to overthrow capitalism by doing nothing - well buying nothing anyway!

The Action Update is now out of money so please send a donation otherwise there will be no issue next month.

The Earth First! Action Update is free to prisoners. Please send in the name and address of anybody that might like to receive it and we will send out a free copy of every issue to them.

GREEN ANARCHISTS IN COURT... AGAIN!

Alleged editors of the UK's only primitivist paper, Green Anarchist, are appearing from 2pm Thursday 8th August at Portsmouth Magistrates court for their committal hearing. They are charged with incitement to cause criminal damage by publication and if found guilty will almost certainly be sent to jail.

This police raid of radical greens is the thin end of the wedge. The state does not draw lines between particular groups or types of actions, they want to criminalise direct action across the board. To do this the conspiracy and incitement laws are far more effective than the CJA, not least because they can try and charge anyone that writes about, or is associated with, a breach of the law as if they were the one that actually committed it.

There will be a Defendants Campaign set up, and a meeting to help form it will be at the McLibel Fair, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London on Saturday 28th September. Until then donations to help with the costs of travel and other defence costs would be appreciated. Send cash or blank postal orders to: Green Anarchist, BM 1715, London WC1N 3XX.

EARTH NIGHTS

Between 12th-14th July the Earth Liberation Front had called for International Earth Nights to target the perpetrators of all forms of animal abuse. Some of the actions that took place on these nights include the rescue of two monkeys from Shamrock Farm, in East Sussex and the liberation of eight rabbits from Educational Supplies in Angmering, also in East Sussex. Abroad, one thousand foxes were released from a fur farm in Canada. For more details of these and other actions that happen read the latest issue, due out soon, of Direct Action Direct available from Chichester Earth First! at PO Box 99, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 4GL. Send a donation to cover costs.

BOUGAINVILLE SUPPORT ACTION

Bougainville is an island in the Pacific that is occupied by Papua New Guinea. The mining company RTZ/CRA had a large copper mine on the island, causing widespread ecological damage, that was opposed by the locals. This opposition moved from protest to revolution, with initially the destruction of the mine by explosives, and then the forming of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army whose aim is to get the RTZ/CRA mine to close permanently and to get the occupation forces of

Papua New Guinea to leave the island. In solidarity with the BRA, who were fighting off a newly launched PNG military offensive, on Monday 15th July seventy people aimed to occupy the Australian Embassy in London. Due to a large police presence, and the embassy already having shut



RTZ Offices, 6 St James's Square, London

down, the people moved to the RTZ offices.

The building was invaded and red paint was thrown over the reception area. Riot police arrived within a minute(!) and forcefully threw people out. There were three arrests, one released without charge, and the other two are to report back to the police in August to see if they will be charged as well. The action was the second item on Australian national TV and as well as an Australian radio station telephoned an activist here in the UK for an interview.

For more details on Bougainville and the ecological revolution going on there, as well as details of future actions planned in this country contact: Bougainville Freedom Movement (UK), c/o SDEF! Prior House, Tilbury Place, Brighton, BN2 2GY. The offensive launched by the PNG Defence Force was initially claimed as a success by the PNG authorities, but it has now been revealed that the BRA fought the offensive off and have not lost any of the land they are holding.

TOXICS AND GENETICS FORUM

Toxics and Genetic Engineering in the context of a campaign has largely been ignored by Earth First! and a meeting held in Birmingham on Saturday 3rd August provided a forum to talk about this. As a result a national campaign against Genetic Engineering and Toxics was launched. Campaigners from across the country discussed ideas and resources in an effective campaign and many useful contacts were made.

It was decided that each group would distribute their own literature and information according to their particular skills and interest in a way that does not undermine solidarity and

common identity. This was agreed on as opposed to a national organization that could bring about problems in structure and responsibility for media. Most importantly it was agreed there would be no condemnation of each others actions.

The campaign at present will concentrate on both the toxics and genetic issues until it is large enough to split or information distribution becomes a problem.

So far as concrete plans for actions that came out of the meeting, it looks as though the National Action this year will be one that is relevant to these issues. There will also be an action in the middle of September— details will be announced. Contact numbers are: 01273 685913 or 0151 339 5473.

NEWBURY

Nine coach loads of fresh new security guards have recently arrived in Newbury, courtesy of Pinkertons (who have already had their offices visited by protestors). Work on a compound will probably start any day. Already half the Costain sites around the country have been hit, including one in London directly after their EGM on the 22nd of July. Earlier on inside Costain had already undergone a grilling from their own shareholders.

Starting on Sunday 25th August and going on until the 30th there is to be 'The Newbury Bypass Flim Flam Festival'. On the Sunday there will be a Friends of the Earth Art Bypass event. Bank Holiday Monday there is to be a Mass Route Walk and Pagan Picnic. Then the real actions will start on the Tuesday continuing on until the Friday (and hopefully way beyond). There will be something for everyone to do. As well as this there is Clobber Costain! an International Anti-Costain campaign starting up!

For an up to date list of Costain sites and offices, both UK and overseas, send an SAE to: Third Battle of Newbury, PO Box 5544, Newbury, RG14 5FB, UK, or call 01635 45544

McMURDER AT STONEHENGE?

The English Heritage chairman Sir Jocelyn Stevens has suggested that McDonald's be allowed to open a burger restaurant at the prehistoric site's new visitor centre. Sir Jocelyn said recently: "Why not McDonald's? There should be a choice of restaurants appealing to all pockets and a choice of experience. The average time a visitor spends now at Stonehenge is twenty minutes and if you have a better experience, if there is more to see and do, you will stay longer. We want the visitor centre to become a destination."

For more details of this insane plan contact the McLibel Support campaign on: 0171 713 1269.

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Please send me the next twelve copies of the EF! Action Update, here is my minimum contribution of £5 (£6 for International). Don't send cash, make cheques payable to Earth First! Donations above £5, for those who can afford it, enable us to reply to enquiries and give free subscriptions to prisoners, libraries, community groups etc. Please send more if you can. Fake names are better for security, and postal orders are more secure than cheques.

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The Peacock Butterfly (*Vanessa io*) flaunting its colours.

